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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 3, 2003

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Daycare Owner Pleads Guilty to Three Felonies for Defrauding State

A Coeur d'Alene daycare owner will serve 90 days discretionary jail time and 60 days on a sheriff's inmate labor detail after pleading guilty to three felonies in connection with the delivery of day care services to participants of the Idaho Child Care Program.

Ian Woodman, 30, pleaded guilty to two counts of forgery and one count of fraudulent procurement of public assistance after an investigation revealed Woodman fraudulently obtained more than \$10,000 in child care payments from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's Idaho Child Care Program. A separate restitution hearing will be held to determine repayment of funds to the State.

The Idaho Child Care Program subsidizes daycare expenses for working families who are low income. Woodman, who previously operated the Coeur d'Alene Daycare and Preschool, continued billing the State for families who had moved out of Idaho and were no longer receiving services from his daycare. The State's payment required the endorsement of both the daycare operator and the parent. Woodman forged the signature of his former clients on these payments and deposited the money into his business account. Due to these convictions, Woodman can no longer be a licensed daycare provider and offer Idaho Child Care Program services.

"Our State's public assistance programs are for people who need a helping hand," says Mond Warren, Bureau Chief for Audits and Investigations for the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. "In these tough economic times, we are very vigilant to anyone who may be defrauding the State of money that should be going to help people get back on their feet."

Warren encourages anyone who knows of a case involving public assistance fraud to call toll-free Idaho Fraud and Abuse hotline at 1-866-635-7515, or in the Boise area 334-0675.

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(Editors: For more information please contact Mond Warren at (208) 334-0675)